

Chapter

3.

ADVICE
TO
THE PHYSICIAN,
THE SURGEON,
AND THE APOTHECARY,
AND
TO THEIR PATIENTS;
after the manner of
DEAN SWIFT;

WITH NOTES PRACTICAL AND ILLUSTRATIVE, FOUNDED
ON LONG OBSERVATION THAT MAY BE BENEFICIAL TO
THEM ALL, AND FAVORABLE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

BY A PHYSICIAN.

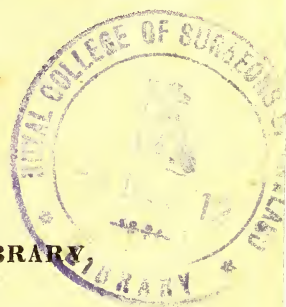
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PREFACE.

THE Profession of Medicine, is said to be the art of preserving health, prolonging life, and curing diseases; nor can there be a more interesting, useful and pleasing occupation when conscientiously and faithfully pursued. But, as all human institutions have a natural tendency to degenerate, so has this; it having, in some hands, become a traffic of a very doubtful description, and productive of much imposition on the public; and to guard against these, it has, consequently, been the subject of various Acts of Parliament.

As an affair of legislation, however, it will allways be extremely difficult; and it is a question whether it would not have been better for mankind in general if the *Materia Medica!* had

never been discovered; or that Practitioners had ever been allowed the exercise of it: we ourselves, are inclined to that opinion; for, by being made under the present defective system a trade of Draughts, Pills and Mixtures, on the one hand; and by admitting the ignorant and false practice of a certain class of Practitioners on the other; we conceive that less evils by far would have occurred, if nature had never been disturbed, but had been left entirely to her own operations.

ADVICE
TO
THE PHYSICIAN.

IF you have graduated at Oxford or Cambridge, where the practice of medicine is less taught than any other science, you must give yourself credit for great medical attainments, and assume an air of importance, as being, in your own opinion, superior to all those whose degrees have been derived from Edinburgh, or any other university; where every branch of useful learning, necessary to constitute the complete physician, is more particularly cultivated; so much so, indeed, that a student in Edinburgh or London would acquire as much knowledge in six months' attendance at the hospitals, and on the different pro-

fessors in either of those cities, as in seven years' residence either in Oxford or Cambridge (1).

At the outset of your practice, you will contrive to publish a medical Essay on some popular subject: such as the

(1) We are here far from intending to pass any indiscriminate censure upon these last mentioned learned bodies, but the medical science is certainly less their object and point of attention, than other subjects. Upon the original establishment, a great many years ago, of the college at Edinburgh, it was observed, to a very learned man of that time, how hard it was that the scotch professors, unlike those in the english universities, were to have no salaries:—The sage answer was; “ So far, “ from thinking that circumstance a subject “ of complaint, I congratulate them upon it; “ for they will then have only their merit to “ depend on.” And the consequence has been, for five medical students of physic in Oxford or Cambridge, there are a hundred in Edinburgh and London.

Gout, Rheumatism, Scrophula, etc. (2); and those who are the martyrs of such disorders, will naturally send for one, who thus appears capable of instructing his brother practitioners. To all such patients you will hold out promises of a speedy and perfect recovery, though many of them may have been for years

(2) You will have no difficulty in composing a book; a pair of *scissars* and some *paste* are all the requisites; have, two, or three authors on the same subject before you, ticketed No. 1, 2 and 3; cut out such passages from them, as seem suitable to your purpose; taking care to interpose No. 3, 1 and 2 in so mixed a way, as to prevent the charge of plagiarism. You can paste them together on plain paper, so as to be read tolerably well, as if all were of your own composition. When your work is finished, advertise it incessantly in the papers of both sides of the question; and you cannot fail to force it, or rather *yourself*, into public notice.

deemed incurable; and when you have exercised your ingenuity in the prescribing line, and carried them through all the common routine of remedies ; which they had doubtless gone over, possibly several times, before, but in different forms; and they begin to lose their hopes, and give hints that they find no amendment whatever, you will be prepared to deny it, saying: “ Their own feelings are not to be relied on; and that you certainly are the best judge (3).” You can assure them, that, at any rate, their pulse is better; for when you first saw them it beat 100 in a minute, but it is now reduced to 75 only; a fact they cannot easily dispute, for they ne-

(3) Patrick, a sick sailor on board ship, was asked one morning, “ How he did ? are “ you not better ?”—“ How the devil can I “ tell,” replied the dissatisfied tar, “ if you “ want to know, you must ask the doctor ! !”

ver measured it: and in such cases, when you take leave of these patients, you may adopt the common mode of the watering place practitioners, who, when their patients begin to perceive there is no prospect of relief, send them away with this comfortable assurance, that “ It is after you get home, the
 “ good effect of the waters in question
 “ generally becomes apparent; and their
 “ full benefit is felt (4).”

(4) Some physicians ; when change of air is indicated, send their patients indiscriminately to the sea side, forgetting that the air there, though beneficial in some cases, is extremely injurious in others ; and, that in some kinds of Consumptions, it much hastens the catastrophe, and greatly increases the debility of certain other invalids : and there are many residents in sea port towns, who are never well, except when they go into the interior. There is no doubt that the larger proportion of the diseases, called consumptions ; are not from

When you are called to a patient, for the first visit, instead of listening with attention to the sufferer's own details of his case, which, in general, are of great consequence, the personal feelings best shewing the real bearings and most commonly the true cause of the disorder, you will, (like certain impudent and puzzling barristers, who sometimes unwarrantably endeavour to extract any thing but the truth from the mouth of a witness), cross examine the patient

diseased lungs, but from a nervous atrophy or general decay of the whole system ; and often made worse by repeated bleedings and other lowering and weakening means, under the idea of tubercular diseases in the chest ; a practice in either case so constantly followed by a fatal termination, that it is a subject of astonishment that medical men have so long persevered in a mode of treatment which perhaps never cured a single patient !!!

with such dexterity (5), that it may appear you can tell the feelings and

(5) A learned judge was much given to interrupt examinations, and a witness before him, could never get on for more than two sentences at a time, as he was sure to call out " stay : stay !" so much so, that, for many years before his death, he was known by the name of the " staymaker."

This is not the case with another very learned Judge, whose kindness, patience, and uninterrupting attention to the speaker, is the best means of coming to a right conclusion. We concur with those who consider his lordship the most consummate lawyer that perhaps England ever knew ; and we are happy to hear, that he means to reform or simplify the practice of a Court of which he is so distinguished an ornament. The crime (often suffered to exist), of a person *detaining knowingly the property of another, is not less than fraudulently taking it away.* The very property thus claimed with the most perfect and clear right is often made to go through

symptoms of the patient better than he can himself. If he should persist in telling his own story in his own way, you must stop him, with a hint, that time is

all the forms which are calculated to defend the fair holder against the false claimant ; and the fraudulent party, if he be a solicitor, or, if not, he can, by the help of an unprincipled one, keep out the true owner for twenty years ; by *bills, cross bills, exceptions* and *various other costly means* ; and lastly by an *appeal* ; thus, Fabius-like, the honest suitor is beat by delay, and ruined in costs ; *which costs enrich the solicitor, and here we find the root of the whole evil*, and here only the remedy is *applicable*. When we perceive what we consider a medical error, we generally proceed to point out a different practice ; so in this our excursion or digression on law, we will, in our next, relate a very curious and existing case of that sort which has come under our observation, and shall humbly point out its appropriate remedy with the view to a legislative interference.

precious, with you; and, in proportion to the impatience, and perhaps rudeness of your behaviour, you will often obtain credit for being in great request, and as having large and extensive practice.

If you are sent for by a person to a case of an attack of fever; no matter whether it is of the malignant, inflammatory, or nervous kind, (although each of these requires a different and perhaps opposite mode of treatment,) you will immediately begin “ *secundum artem* ;” viz. in the ancient and usual way, “ *imprimis*,” prescribe, Bleeding; secondly, an Emetic, thirdly, all sorts of what are called febrifuges, such as *Mindererus’* spirit (of late called *Liquor Ammoniacæ acetatis*) Dover’s powder, (now also designated by a new name); fourthly, Aperients, Anodynes, etc. etc., and, probably, in due time,

bark (6). But, if you should, per adventure, begin with that well known, but envied medicine, the real James's Powder, in the small dose of one, or two grains, every six or eight hours, accompanied with a very plentiful dilution of water,

(6) The practice of professor Gregory was quite the reverse of this ; and, in his lectures, he used to give this judicious practical remark :
 “ When,” says he, “ you find it difficult to
 “ ascertain the real state of the disease, you
 “ must lay upon the oar, and not interfere
 “ with nature ; but, as it may be necessary
 “ (particularly if your patient is one of *Mrs.*
 “ *Neverwell's family*), to appear to do some-
 “ thing, you must prescribe, what he termed a
 “ *placebo*,” viz. syrup of violets and water ;
 “ draughts made of bran tea, or pills of mi-
 “ ca panis (bread pills) ; and, after watching a
 “ day or two, the nature of the disorder will
 “ develope itself ; when, and not before,
 “ your indication and the method of cure may
 “ be safely determined upon.”

that has been boiled, and slightly flavored with the non-pareil apple, or the baum leaf, the disorder would, in all human probability, be carried off in less than forty eight hours: whereas the former plan (7), by making a simple

(7) An elderly practitioner was pressed to try a different course on these and the like occasions: "What," says he, "I, that have been thirty years in business, and invariably done so and so, and now to alter at the suggestion of one, who is but of yesterday in the profession; it would be an absurdity of the highest degree!" Certain and humiliating it is, that age itself has no natural tendency to improve, perhaps quite the contrary, and it is astonishing what credit some persons attach to certain elder practitioners, whom they consider capable, by their long experience, of knowing the constitution of each individual of their families. The pertinacity of practice of some of these persons is what the late professor Cullen used to stile, "*false experience.*" The dealing in mede-

case a complex one, renders a long attendance necessary; and sentence of

cine and not the best mode of cure, is too often the prime object; and instances are not wanting, where diseases have resisted all attempts to remove them, on account of the largeness as well as the number of the doses prescribed. We will instance, mercury (the rage for prescribing which on all occasions is now so great). Sometimes those very patients who have suffered in this way, have, at a future period, been nevertheless cured by the very same medicine; but by a dose one twentieth part of what was given in the first instance. The reason is obvious; the quantity first prescribed repeatedly sickened the stomach, deranged and debilitated the system, and rendered it unfit to receive and experience the desired beneficial effect. The specific remedy has consequently been of necessity laid aside; and the patient, in this manner, has missed his cure, lost his remedy, and has been abandoned to his fate.

nursing and regimen will thus be passed upon your patient, for a length of

To exemplify the foregoing, let any one afflicted with obstinate syphilitic symptoms, (or what is perhaps equally afflicting, labouring under the effects of an ill cured case of that disorder), take the small dose of one fourth of a grain of the *hydrargyrum-calcinatum*, and one eighth of a grain of *opium*, and ten grains of *India rhubarb* every night for a week, and he will find so beneficial an alteration, that he will readily perceive he has nothing to do but persevere in the same small quantity, and his cure will be certain ! In like manner Dr. James's powder, the inventor of which most unaccountably directs the quantity of five, eight, and ten grains to be taken at a dose, would be a much more efficacious remedy, provided it was differently given, viz., in doses of *one* grain, *two*, and *seldom* more than *three*.

An absurd fashion too prevails, of practitioners prescribing excessive doses of Calomel, in common and ordinary occasions, *six*, or

time. He will, however, have this ad-

eight grains, for instance, are given often to adults, and even children ; one or two grains for a dose may indeed be occasionally very beneficial. Let these calomel, *wholesale* consumers, however, be reminded by the way, that, although many of their patients have obtained benefit in disordered livers and bilious indispositions ; yet others have been much injured thereby ; such large quantities of calomel, (or mercury in any shape), having a tendency to enervate the constitution, by stimulating and weakening the functions of the kidneys ; and lessening their power to separate the aqueous part of the blood ; thereby laying the foundation for dropsy, and many other diseases to which otherwise there was no predisposition.

The prescribers, therefore, of large and continued Courses of calomel, and likewise of the *Blue Pill*, and of the *Plummer's Pill* (we have been told that there are some very eminent practitioners who do so in nine cases out of ten, that are brought before

vantage, for, after such a course of discipline, he will come out fresh, and

them) ; these practitioners, I say, will do well to recollect that such strong mercurial remedies, except for these few years past, were almost solely given in cases of the lues venerea ; and how did they act in those diseases ? why specifically and peculiarly upon the kidney and its appendages ; thus extirpating, it is true, the lues ; but how much did they weaken these vital organs and the general constitution ? And, did not the patients come out of these courses of severe discipline, so reduced and emaciated, as, in many instances, to be totally irrecoverable ?

We are not here to deny the utility of this mercurial remedy, when given with discretion, in case of diseased and schirrous livers, and bilious complaints ; but we must most distinctly contend, that, whilst you are endeavouring to cure such disorders ; it is your duty to take care, lest you induce a worse disease ; namely, debility and atrophy of the kidney ; for mercury, most assuredly lessens the powers of that organ, breaks down

sleek as a racer ; and no one will deny that the loss of superfluous fat, is a great gain to a heavy man, and the fre-

the blood, and induces a general weakness throughout the whole frame. When, therefore, you meet some one of our gallant east india Officers, or Others, with a pale and squalled countenance, he will inform you : “ That his liver and bilious system are disordered by long service in foreign climates ; “ but *that he has got his remedy in his pocket ;*” viz. his Calomel, or his Blue Pill ; He may, however, be mistaken, for it is an even chance, but that his medicine has become his disease ; a circumstance little suspected either by himself or his adviser ; and the kidney, not the liver, is now the real seat of the disorder ; so that the weakened state of that organ need only to be attended to, for the attainment of his health ; for which purpose horse exercise, temperance, and *no mercury*, will sometimes do all that is necessary.

There are other common place medicines too, which we think we have just reason to quarrel with, and that much constitutional

quently advertised “ *secret remedy against corpulency,*” sold in or near lamb’s conduit street, may probably turn out to be something in this way.

inconvenience has sometimes been the result of officious treatment in slight attacks of fever; and also in incipient acuterheumatisms, where, instead of adopting the plan of professor Gregory, as mentioned in page 10 (and which ought to be written in letters of gold), stimulating remedies internally; and sometimes even repelling applications outwardly, have, unfortunately been had recourse to: some of these applications, have been *volatile liniments*, such as *oil* and *hartshorn* applied to the parts in pain; a *hot iron* applied to a stiff, inflamed, and feverish neck; these, and the like repellents thus used outwardly, or officious stimulants internally, such as *Camphor*, *Calomel*, *Bark* etc. at a time when the patient is labouring under considerable fever and inflammation, are sure to throw the system into the greatest irritation; and a local congestion is often thus determined to some vital part and not unfre-

If, in addition to his other disagreeables, your patient should be troubled with a Sore Throat, it will furnish an opportunity for another article of the pharmacopeia ; you will, therefore, send him a *gargarism* ; and, as those in general use, are either, astringent, or repellent, or both ; it may delay the natural cure, by closing up the follicles of the membranes lining the throat ; but, if nature be left to herself, the abundant mucous discharge from the throat and fauces, would quickly and naturally remove the soreness of itself : these sort of auxiliaries must, however, be had recourse to ; for, the patient will not be satisfied, un-

quently the head ; sometimes to the deep seated muscles and ligaments, occasioning a crippled or infirm state for life : whereas such patients, but for this officious mode of treatment, might have been restored to perfect health in a very few days.

less *the enemy* is attacked at all points ; and he will think himself neglected, that his throat is not to be *treated* with a gargle. In such a case, however, the dry one, being the most innocent, and most amusing ; viz. a powder composed of five grains of nitre, twenty of white sugar, and the sixth of a grain of white pepper, shaken dry into the mouth, and swallowed gradually, will best answer all such purposes.

The Writing of your Prescriptions at the finish of your visit, will require some consideration, and you will recollect, that the said prescription may be liable to be pored over, by the patient or his friends ; as well as by the apothecary ; it will, therefore, be your business to make it as obscure, and mysterious as possible ; and let there be in it nothing *common*, or *simple* : all, odd, extraordinary, and compounded articles, look best on paper ; and will give an high

idea of your ingenuity: and this mode of novelty, and of puzzling the patient and bye-standers, has, I verily believe, been the true reason why some very strange articles have ever found their way into the human stomach. A wine bibber was advised to desist from his quantity; "No," says he, "I cannot do without it; the greatest pleasure in life, to me, is to bother my brain with *black strap*, for four hours every day after dinner." So it was, I suppose, that the *Cicuta* (Hemlock) came to be so much in use about twenty years ago, it having a power of inducing a *pleasant vertigo and deadly sickness*, for many hours after taking it: vast numbers of his Majesty's liege subjects were half poisoned by it, for years, before it was found out, that it had little or perhaps no power whatever to cure diseases, perhaps quite the contrary: and the German practitioner Dr. Storck, who

wrote cases, in which he alledged its wonderful efficacy in curing Cancers and Scrophula, was disbelieved, and strongly suspected of fabricating them merely to put his name before the public for the sake of notoriety, or to provoke discussion and a trial of its merits.

In the same way, probably, and for the sake of novelty, or fashion, there have been not a few martyrs to other articles, yclept, *remedies*; and we are no friends to, at least have great doubts of, the *Digitalis*; the *Hyosciamus*, the *Strammonium*, the *Humulus Lupulus*, the *Quassia*, and some others; *medicines*, whose high sounding names are apt to mislead the unskilful, but whose effects are only to be personally felt, to be fairly appreciated.

The celebrated John Hunter, for the sake of finding the best cure for the syphilis, inoculated himself with that loathsome disease; in order, personally, to experience in his own feel-

ings the various symptoms and effects of the usual remedies prescribed for it. A mode certainly the most likely to come to a right knowledge of the nature, progress, and cure of that disorder. What we have to propose is a similar method of *personal experience* and feelings, but far less formidable in the undertaking. We would have every favorer and prescriber of the *digitalis*, and the other before mentioned active and disgusting articles, prevailed on, to swallow what he is so fond of advising for others; that is to say, *hob-nob*, with his patient: a second, if not the first taking into his own stomach, might illuminate his intellect and give him not only a clear idea of the misery, some of them are capable of producing; but would quite satisfy him, that, were he to continue it (as he is wont occasionally, to advise his patients) the good health he now enjoys might possibly give way to the steady use of such active and violent *remedies*,

and for ever after, he would, like certain brewers, suffer any thing rather than drink their own beer: and the *hob-nob* plan here proposed would go a great way towards a very desirable amelioration of the practice of medicine; as well as a great abatement probably of the sufferings of many Sick Persons!

If you are called to a case where Spitting of Blood, is one of the most prominent and alarming symptoms; a situation of circumstances in which a slow, tedious, and deliberate practitioner, would deem it of the utmost importance, carefully to ascertain, whether it is caused by an inflammatory state of the system, and an encreased action of the heart and arteries; or whether it is arising from a weakened action of those vessels, and the blood, from its dissolved state, effusing itself into the air vessels of the lungs, producing

cough and bloody expectoration. In such a disorder you will have an opportunity of shewing your promptness and decision. You will not stop to enquire whether the case is inflammatory or the reverse, but, at once, prescribe a *copious bleeding* and all sorts of *anti-phlogistic* and *lowering* medicines; and, the next day, when you find the blood still is coughed up from the lungs; and that the patient, is exceedingly low, and the relatives doubt whether all is going on successfully, you must shew that your practice and judgment were correct, by ordering *another* bleeding; and go on even for the *third* time, and this will shew the bye-standers; what a *bold* practitioner you are, and give you great eclat as a man fit to be *implicitly* confided in (8).

(8) The writer, a short time ago, had an opportunity of observing a melancholy case

In the course of your practice, you will occasionally be called in, upon

like the above. He called accidentally on a friend, on hearing he was ill, and found his complaint was a case of Spitting of Blood, arising from simple debility, and a dissolved state of that fluid ; and, unfortunately, a third bleeding had just then taken place. The Writer instantly perceived, by the lengthened and misericordia face, that the Patient was fast sinking, and not the smallest chance of recovery. The sagacity and skill of the physician is, in no instance, so material as in finding out whether the case submitted to him, be inflammatory or its contrary ; plethoric or its reverse ; acute or chronic ; sanguineous or serous ; it would be well if the patient, or his friends were to enquire of the medical man, on this point, at the first interview ; as the test of the ability of the practitioner may here be seen. Nothing can be of more importance, than to ascertain the real state of a disorder ; for that mode of treatment which

another physician, to hold a consultation : upon these occasions there is so

is calculated to remove an Inflammatory Fever, would endanger a patient labouring under a Putrid or Nervous one ; that, which would cure the acute Rheumatism, would greatly aggravate the Chronic ; those means which would remove Plethora, would destroy him who labours under Debility and Inanition ; Apoplexies and Palsies are also of two sorts ; viz. the Sanguineous and the Serous ; requiring opposite remedies, though too frequently treated alike ! In the sanguineous apoplexy, for instance, which is, by far more common, the real cause of the disease, is most probably a venous congestion in the sinusses of the brain ; and the Arteries not being able to overcome the obstruction ; the brain is compressed, and thus Apoplexy is formed : would any judicious considerate practitioner, in this state of affairs, lessen the power of the neighbouring arteries, or in other words, encrease the cause of the disease by drawing blood from the

much ceremony to be understood, that we confess ourselves at a loss to give you any rule to go by. The etiquette

temporal, or any artery? Yet such is often done ; and this erroneous practice, I am told, is even to this day taught by some few of the public lecturers. Surely common sense would dictate, that, the ready way to remove venous distension, would be to relieve that overloaded system by opening the jugular vein. Certain it is, that the public have few means of judging the comparative merit of Physicians, a pleasing address, an agreeable mode of conversing on the fashionable frivolities and incidents of the day, have brought more persons into the best practice, than real medical merit, or judgment : and it has happened, not unfrequently, that a man of ornamental learning, accompanied with very little of Anatomy, Physiology, or Chemistry, has often taken the lead of those who have made the knowledge of every branch of their peculiar profession their entire study.

however very *properly* is all for the interest of the medical practitioner, and consequently not much in favor of the patient. If then, you should arrive at the house first, you are by no means to proceed to the sick room, let the emergency be ever so great; no! you must be cooped up in a room by yourself, as if you were to proceed to prayers, or to consult the occult sciences; and you must there wait for the physician, whose property the patient is; for, should you go to the bedside alone, you might have a better opportunity to perceive the real nature of the disorder; and might, inadvertently, disclose an opinion different from what had been passed before: and, as it is said, that two heads are sometimes better than one, the patient and his friends might then have the benefit of two opinions separately taken; and why not in physic, as well as law cases? why not a

written opinion demanded, in like manner as counsel's opinion, for the sake of comparison and discussion? no! the original physician must be the organ, and director; and the second, therefore, is at no time to visit but *in company with* the first;—how soon such sort of *etiquette* ought to be put an end to, we will leave the public to judge; but to proceed; if, on this consultation of physicians, the case should turn out to be one, where an aggravation of symptoms may possibly have been the consequence of an ingenious variety of medicine; and a forgetfulness of the occasional utility of what has been vulgarly called the “*kitchenphysic*,”—or, probably, the exhibition of any of the new and active articles *in fashion*; you must have a proper degree of friendly feeling for your brother practitioner; and, to shew he has proceeded with perfect correctness; you must boldly advise, that the

last prescription of your friend should be persevered in, and that the *dose be doubled!!* (9).

As your office includes the die-

(9) A fashionable Physician, now no longer living, who ranked high in the profession, was attending an elderly lady, to whom he was prescribing the Digitalis, Æther, &c. and the Patient getting worse, from day to day; her recovery was pronounced to be impossible, when a second Physician was proposed; and, at the consultation, they concurred as to the nature of the malady, and ordered, that the last medicine prescribed, which had disagreed and distressed her exceedingly, should be *persevered in*, and *the dose doubled!!* This appeared to the sick lady so unfeeling, revolting, and cruel, that she sent for the Writer, who happened to be accidentally in town, to ask his advice upon it, as a friend; who, on hearing the whole detail of the disorder, was convinced, that the two former physicians, had unaccountably mistaken

tetic as well as the medical treatment, you will frequently be asked by the

the cause of the disease, which they had pronounced to be a *Dropsy in the Chest* ; whereas, it was a case of *Disordered Liver*, and *Obstructed Bile*, from chronic *inflammation of the Gall Bladder*; and the symptoms were accordingly aggravated in proportion to the quantity exhibited of the irritating articles before mentioned ; and which were now so strangely ordered by them *to be “ doubled in dose.”* The Lady was easily persuaded to throw aside all medicines ; and to depend upon cooling and simple diluents ; the consequence was, that, instead of dying that night, as they had pronounced, an amendment immediately took place ; and she was well enough in three weeks after, to be removed to her country house.

I remember a Physician, a very worthy man, who obtained a good practice and considerable reputation ; and he had but *one* Prescription ; nevertheless, his patients were sure

patient, or the nurse, what food is to be taken? and what is best for common

to be much better after his first visit. His custom was, not to write his Recipe at the sick house ; but to go to the apothecary's and call for pen and paper ; and the young men in the shops, were always glad to see him, in preference to any other, as he was the cause of very little trouble ; and when he sat down to write, they would wink and smile at each other ; for they always knew what the prescription was to be. In fact, it never was more or less than, eight or ten drams of *Infusion of Senna*, and one dram of *Solutive Syrup of Roses*," to be taken "*statim*;" and it was, certainly, the sooner the better ; for it quietly removed from the *primæ viæ* all the various and complicated farrago that the apothecary had there put ; and left nature to her own work : the patient, being immediately relieved, was well pleased with the doctor, who, at his next visit, was sure to say, "*repetatur haustus*," for, it was seldom he would

drink? now, your answer will instantly and invariably be : “ Toast and water,

give any thing else ; and, if he did, it was of a very simple, mild, and inactive nature.

There was another Physician, in the same provincial City, whose practice was *somewhat* different ; wherever *He* went, the following was *his favorite* prescription. Take strong infusion of *Valerian* two ounces ; thirty grains of *Spermaceti* dissolved in the yolk of an egg ; then add *twenty grains of compound powder of Contrayerva* to which put *Nitre* and *Camphor* of each five grains : and this *compound draught* was directed to be taken every three hours. Thus, there was *valerian* for the *nervous* part of the case, *spermaceti* for the *cough*, *contrayerva* and *nitre* for the *fever*, and *camphor* to support the *vis vitæ* ; and besides these draughts, there were *Emulsions* and *Pills* to be taken “*horis vacuis.*” This Physician was a tall figure and dressed in the costume of the profession thirty years ago ; viz. the long camblet cloak, lined with scarlet, cocked

and barley water." Two articles we will venture (*seriously, not ironically*), to af-

hat, huge wig, and cane. He was a gentleman extremely respectable ; but of a temper rather hasty ; and, being once on a journey to a patient sixteen miles off, he found fault with his post-boy, who was both obstinate and impertinent, and the quarrel rose so high, that in the middle of the lonely stage the lad jumped off the horses, and declared, with an oath, that he would drive him no further. The doctor had, therefore, no alternative but to get himself, upon the riding horse, and drive into the town, dressed as he was, and mounted whip-in-hand. Dr. Syntax himself never made a more excellent figure ! !

His neighbour, the senna, and rose Physician, before mentioned, was, on the other hand, so plain and simply clad, that one day arriving at a neighbouring town, whither he had been sent for in a great hurry and knocking at the door, the person who opened it, taking him for his servant, said : " Pray, my good man, is the

firm very much misunderstood in their effects, and ought to be discarded from the sick room, in the same manner as the strammonium, the deadly night shade, and some others, before treated of, ought to be dismissed from the apothecary's shop : the fact is, that, the custom of drinking Toast and Water, is peculiarly calculated, from the alum and other substances which it contains, to promote obstruction in the coats of the alimentary canal, and biliary system : and Barley Water, the other very common drink, is extremely forcing and stimulating to the kidneys ; and which we suppose is the *sapient* reason, that whenever a strangury supervenes from the absorption of cantharides, under the action of blistering plasters, the first

doctor arrived? for it is nearly all over with us.”
 “ If that is the case,” cried old Senna, “ then the sooner you shew me up stairs the better.”—

remedy thought of, by many practitioners, is this said barley water in *large quantities* ; which is, we contend, adding fuel to the fire.

You may also probably be asked by the patient, in certain cases, “ what wine shall I drink ;” the answer is sure to be “ *Port*,” a beverage far less adapted to the sick, than the light colored wines ; and, for those that are in health, we contend it is very doubtful.

In this damp climate, such a cordial astringent, may be occasionally indicated, and allowable ; but, when had in constant use, it will induce a premature appearance of old age ; and become the cause of bilious and other indispositions which are possibly, from this very cause, almost peculiar to our climate. The French are so aware of this, that they speak of it, as a matter of great surprize, that an Englishman will drink a whole bottle of it (port),

whereas they (the French), consider it merely as a “ *medicine*,” to be had recourse to only in particular cases, where the highest cordials are necessary, such as in Agues, &c. and in the same way as you would prescribe *Logwood*, or a *decoction of Sloes*, in the Dysentery.

If You are popular among your Brethren; you may be chosen one of the Censors by the College of Physicians; and you will act with little spirit, if you do not make this your appointment a *complete sinecure*. The inspection of the shops of the Apothecaries and an examination of their contents, belongs to your department. But to do your duty, would be a very invidious and troublesome task; and deprive your patients of much of your valuable time and attention. You know perfectly well, Mr. Censor, as all the faculty do, that the shops of *some* of the apothecaries, and perhaps some of the chemists, both in

London and in other parts of the Kingdom, contain too many articles, falsely called “pharmaceutics,” that are specious, noxious, stale, and good for nothing; and that, by virtue, and power of your office, you have an undoubted right to seize, and throw them into the street: but, do not be so rigid a censor, so strict a promoter of the discipline of old times. Shut your eyes against the ingenious artifices of these shops, and shew your approbation of the mode of recompensing themselves, by supplying their patients with *spurious Medicines*, and making them pay for them the full price of those that are genuine; remember that, as a true Briton, and a good subject, you are bound to encourage the growth of all british produce, and discourage foreign articles; and let this principle be a salvo to your conscience, when you connive at English Rhubarb and other Roots; being sold for the fo-

reign, and if you happen to meet with *Spurious Bark*; let it pass for the true sort; for you know this fraud encourages the growth of the British Oak.

Here, we cannot omit to advert to the absurd custom, still prevalent in the College of Physicians, of examining candidates, for licences to practise, in the Latin tongue. There was certainly a very good reason for it formerly, when the Latin language was well understood and generally and fluently spoken by all scholars. But this practice has long ceased, and the phrases necessary to convey the questions of the Examiners, and the answers of the Candidates, are difficult to be acquired; and the consequence is, that both parties are put under extreme restraint, and are fettered so, that the business is cut as short as possible: who, therefore, does not see? that our own language would be more proper, or, indeed, is absolutely necessary, to give scope to a fair and full trial

of a candidate's abilities and attainments in medical science.

As the examinations are at present conducted, the scrutiny is limited to a very few particulars, perhaps to one species of malady ; or one topic of pharmacy only among the multitude that exist ; and the consequence may be, that a candidate may be passed, with the full authority and approbation of the college, whose abilities are almost entirely unascertained, and who may be empowered "*ad practicandum per totam angliam*," who, from incompetence, may possibly only practice "*ad occidendum*."

On the Continent, this business of examination for a degree, is better conducted. It is there not a nullity. The first question put to the candidate is in Latin, and the examination is continued in whatever language the candidate may reply, provided the professors are acquainted with it.

TO

THE SURGEON.

NOTHING shews the force of habit more decidedly, than the practice of your branch of the Medical Profession; for, it is said, that Surgeons are extremely fond of dissecting dead bodies; as well as operating their living patients; and this professional partiality has its corresponding utility.

Some part of the unrivalled excellence of Kemble may have been derived in this way; so devoted was He to Acting in his early years, that he has been heard to say, that “ *he would at any time get up in the middle of the night to play Hamlet.*”

A knight of the black brush was contemplating to retire from business, and on

being told of the inconvenience of an idle life, replied, that “ He could at any time “ obviate that evil by occasionally *ascending a chimney for his amusement.*”

It would, however, be a very singular taste for a Surgeon to amputate legs and arms in the same way, namely, *for occupation of time* : it is supposed, however, that the numerous accidents which daily occur, will insure quite sufficient employment for any moderate taste in this way; even the citizen’s *little leaded garden*, may sometimes be useful in this respect, particularly in windy weather, when some *potted plant* is blown into the street from the *ornamented balcony* of our first floors; and fractures the skull of one of the numerous persons passing under it.

You will, on being sent for on such an occasion, have *a good opportunity* for operating; and will immediately proceed to *trepan the patient*, let the ‘si-

tuation and symptoms produced by so dreadful an injury be what they may. (10)

There is, also, another prolific source of accidents, we mean the present dangerous fashion in the metropolis of driving Blood Horses in single harness; and the permitting horse-dealers to exercise their one horse-breaks in the public

(10) The writer accidentally happened to call in, when some Country Surgeons were proceeding to Trepan a Youth, who had fallen from his horse, and fractured his skull; He stopped them suddenly: “*Pray, gentlemen, what are you going to trepan for?*”—“There is a fracture of the skull.” Was the answer. “*True, but I perceive there are no symptoms of depression, nor of any injury of the brain, and you will give the patient less chance of recovery than he has at present; for, if you do trepan, you add injury to injury.*” They consented to desist, and the patient soon got well. What would have been the result had the trephine been used is another affair!!

streets; and you will often be sent for to a broken leg, from these and the like causes. Should it prove a bad compound fracture, and where a *dull, plodding*, practitioner would reflect that it redounds more to the credit of the surgeon to save, than amputate, a limb : you will pursue a different course; *dispatch*, is *your* object, therefore like “ Richard in the play ” — “ *off with the limb at once ;* ” that the Patient and Yourself may have less trouble in the cure(11).

(11) Nothing but a dangerous Hæmorrhage and the impossibility of finding the mouth of the Wounded Artery, can justify the condemnation of a Limb in this way ; as has sometimes been the case. The amputation may, nevertheless, become after all, unavoidable ; and after a few days if the Limb be found so shattered and disordered as to be incapable of being saved, the Amputation may then be justifiable ; and after such lapse of a few days, the Operation is far less likely to prove fatal.

Also in cases of a broken Thigh bone you will, in the reduction of the Limb, place your patient on the bed *on his side*, and in that posture the ends of the fractured bones will *invariably ride over each other*. Thus the limb will become for ever after three or four inches shorter than before; and there is this advantage, you may in future be able to distinguish in the street your quondam patient a mile off, *by his up and down pace* ; but, should you peradventure place him properly on his back, with the leg raised sufficiently high, and well propped up, that the ends of the bone may remain in proper contact, they will unite so as to leave the limb of the same length, and as perfect as ever.

In cases of painful Tumours, and particularly when situated in the Groin, you must take care not to mistake such a one for a “ *Hernia*,” as we have more than

once, strange to relate, seen such errors of judgment. In these troublesome tumours there has been a most ruinous method recommended by some writers, and by some practitioners continued even to this day, and which course it will be your business *to follow*; namely, you will *apply leeches to such inflamed Tumours and all sorts of discutients*; and, by *thus throwing back the purulent matter into the circulation*, the case will become complicated; and your patient will soon shew the result by his *hectical and consumptive appearance*; should you feel alarmed at this; you can, if not too late, do, as you ought to have done at first, namely, encourage the swelling by emollient cataplasms, to soften and suppurate, so as to make it break, or fit for opening by the lancet, and from the first hour of this salutary discharge of pus taking place outwardly, your patient's amendment will be so striking,

that you will gain *great applause* for the *skill employed*; as the proverb goes, “better late than never.”

In cases of Chronic Inflammation of the eyes! we mean such as have been of long standing; there will be an opportunity for a variety of collyriums, unguents, lotions, and eye waters, out of number; these may all be useful *in their way*, but we must take the liberty to mention, that they are often carried too far. In like manner Operations on the Eye, with cutting instruments, and irritating and caustic applications, are probably too frequent, and extremely dubious of doing good. One Lady of our acquaintance had a great part of the internal coat of the eyelid extirpated: and another Lady lost all her eyelashes; which were rooted out by a caustic application, and for what reason, could not be divined; and, when we next saw her, after a considerable absence, the beauty

of her countenance was so much diminished, that she hardly appeared the same person ; and that eye-operation will not soon be forgotten in the neighbourhood ; and we hope no patient will be ever again subjected to so useless and painful a project.

Many sufferers with long continued diseased eyes, have been made happy by the following advice ; viz. “ Throw
 “ off your green shade if you can possibly do without it ! Use no lotion, eye
 “ water, or ointments whatever, unless
 “ you are in pain ;—and then warm water
 “ is probably your best application ;—
 “ wash your eyes with great gentleness, only once in the day, about two
 “ hours after rising, and let the water
 “ pass under the eyelids, as little as
 “ possible, or nor at all.” This negative prescription would, perhaps, cure more distressing chronic cases, than any celebrated eye water in the king-

dom. The too frequent use of eye water destroys that fluid which is secreted by the lacrymal gland, for the purpose of facilitating the rolling of the eyeball; and when unnecessarily diluted, and repeatedly washed away, the consequent dryness, is, of itself, a sufficient cause of disease. Here, for the use and benefit of the lovely sex, we may remind them; *that those eyes are the most brilliant, which are the least washed*; and such elderly persons, and others, of weak sight, whose eyelashes are found glued up on waking in the morning, will do well to recollect these hints, and they will perceive the cause, as well as the cure of this unpleasant calamity, namely : the habit of washing them too often.

In like manner when you see in frosty weather the little children, and others, with their feet, and hands swelled by chilblains; arising no doubt from the languid circulation in their extremities,

produced by cold; the lotion, and embrocation system, is more useless perhaps, here, than on any occasion.—The true, and, perhaps only remedy in these instances, is an additional pair of stockings (worsted or yarn), worn high, and above the knee: and a slip of flannel securely sewed round each wrist: these homely means will comfort, and cure, nineteen times out of twenty; and I believe the *lotion system* never cured one. Those ladies who extend their walks and rides, and many there are of this description; when they give stockings for these purposes, should further extend their benevolence by occasionally calling to see whether they are actually worn; and the wrist *permanently ornamented* with the flannel *bracelet*.

In accidents of Burns and Scalds, as painful and distressing a situation as perhaps any, in which the feelings of humanity are excited, we have often, seen—(but hope never again)—oils, and

ointments ; applied in large quantities, thus encreasing the pain and distress, whereas the effectual remedy, is the “ *pump* ;” viz. the application of cold water, or vinegar and water, which will instantly either in scalds, or burns, give ease, and by keeping the part constantly in a wetted state, they will be cured ; at least the painful and inflamed stage will be removed, and little else will remain to be done.

the first of these is the fact that the
 country is not a single country, but
 a collection of many small countries,
 each of which has its own laws and
 customs. The second is the fact that
 the country is not a single country, but
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TO

THE APOTHECARY.

MANY of the Rules laid down for the guidance of the Physician, will be applicable to you, as being generally sent for to a patient in the first instance. If you find the case merely of a simple nature, you will take care not to make it a complex one; and, should it be complicated, beware lest you should make it an incurable one. Your ingenuity will, however, furnish you with reasons, for sending in a tolerable quantity of draughts, pills, and powders. The charges for which, being, in the present very ill-judged system of things, the only mode, of compensating you for your time and labour, it will, therefore, be with your own conscience alone, to what amount

that compensation shall be; and, as we give you credit for some of the articles sent, being fairly and justly indicated by the nature of the complaint, the only difficulty will be with the patient; and with which you have nothing to do, (let him look to that) namely which of them, he shall swallow, and which he shall take the liberty to throw out of the window.

If the patient should not be in a certain time restored to health, a physician may possibly be thought necessary; and you will sometimes be asked as to the party proper to be called in. On these occasions be careful to name one who will do you credit; and shew a proper gratitude for your recommendation. His skill being necessarily estimated by you, not so much by the true indications of his prescriptions, as by the multifariousness of his resources, in the art of prescribing.

If in your practice, you should

hear of any disinterested Physician who, regardless of your welfare, or even of existence, and not having the fear of *starvation to the fraternity before his eyes* ; should recommend *very little* medicines ; or who shall be found guilty of ever telling a patient to desist from all medicine ; saying : “ that they can do him no good whatever ; ” you will pronounce against such a one ; as the Freemasons do those of *their* order who have wantonly endeavoured to divulge the secret, (that is to say, who honestly declare that there *is none*), as unfit to be admitted to any Lodge in the known world.

When you perceive there are articles in the Physician's prescription that your shop cannot supply ; or that, they are of the expensive sort, you will readily and ingeniously substitute such as you may have in their places. You can put the “ *antimonial powder*, ” in the room of the real “ *James's powder*, ” which costs you one fiftieth the price. Indeed it

would be an imputation on your judgement, not to know how many articles of the *Materia Medica* are conducive to the same object and effect. You can put *syrup of Orange peel* for the *syrup of Lemon juice*, and *Calomel* will do instead of that expensive article, the *Hydrargyrum calcinatum*: You will also have a proper regard for your own interest; and knowing by long experience that medicines sometimes have been found too active; you can supply those that are *less* so; for instance, one of the very best, and most generally useful articles, in the shop, is, “*Rhubarb*,” it being perhaps,—we mean the genuine—the best stomachic aperient known; now this genuine article is very costly and scarce; you will, therefore, in these hard times, have none such in your possession; let English *Rhubarb* answer all “*your*” purposes; and it can, by a little contrivance, be made to look just as

well as the Turkish; and at one *twentieth the expence*. To be sure, the english sort is quite inert and of no effect; but here you will have this salvo to your conscience; it can do no harm whatever, any more than so much powder of *Lignum communis* or a decoction of "*Aqua pura*."

You will, in your shop, arrange the articles "*secundum artem*," and place the Spirituous and vinous Tinctures in their proper classes, and as Tincture of Rhubarb, and Tincture of Opium, (*Laudanum*) are both made with wine; those bottles are to be placed together, on the same shelf; and if your young assistant should, in his hurry, take down the *Laudanum*. and put up a quantity of it, instead of a draught of the Tincture of Rhubarb (14) it will, most probably,

(14) We will recite a more innocent mistake than the above. A young assistant was one day

be a sure and certain cure ; let the disorder for which the draught was pres-

preparing a pectoral decoction, of figs, liquorice, and raisins, for a patient in the last stage of a consumption ; and hearing his master coming along the passage, leading to the kitchen where he was employed in boiling it, and complaining of his delay ; at that moment, some coals giving way, the boiler was overset, and the whole contents thrown over. The lad, in order to avoid his master's angry temper, scrambled up some cinders and dust from under the grate into the decoction pot, and filling it up with water, went on with the process : the master having by this time arrived, and standing by to see the decoction finished ; it was poured off, bottled, and accordingly dispatched to the patient for use : what effect this *cinder apozem* had on that pulmonic case I never heard ; but, it is said, discoveries in medicine, have sometimes had very extraordinary *origins* : How it came to pass that a *watery infusion of fresh cow-dung* became a

cribed be what it may. It will indeed prove a rival to some of the well known

sovereign remedy in consumptions, is difficult to imagine; but, certain it is, that a Lady of fashion and fortune residing at the west end of the town; remarkable for her talents and delicacy of sentiment; never hears of a deplorable instance of Consumption, among her friends or their acquaintance; but she contrives to make known, and recommend this singular remedy. Of all animal excretions that of the cleanly cow fed on good pasture, and hay, may perhaps be the least disgusting; and we see no reason to discard the idea of the utility or efficacy of this new medicine; on the contrary, we think it worth the trial; and applaud the zeal and humanity displayed; and were a great many of the unnecessarily nauseous medicines, so much prescribed by the faculty equally innoxious; it would be so much the better for the suffering patient; and we take this opportunity to impress the idea, that the selection of articles from the *Materia Medica* might and ought to be made a great

patent nostrums of the day ; which are advertised as capable of curing *disorders of every possible denomination.*

deal more palatable ; at least less disagreeable is the too common and prevailing mode. For instance, what can be more sickening to a weak stomach, than the mindererus spirit (*Liquor Ammonia Accetatis*). Whereas, the pleasant draught of salt of wormwood and lemon juice is equally beneficial and useful. Manna and salts with compound spirit of Lavender is a common but nauseous form of draught of the shops ; whilst, infusion of Senna and Tamarinds would answer a better purpose, and be far less disgusting ; who would not prefer the James's powder, to its general substitute the loathsome “ Dover's powder ;” and, as to young children and infants, it is more vitally necessary to bear this maxim in mind ; tasteless, yet effectual remedies, may and ought to be carefully selected for all young persons. From this rule not being observed, they, not only, frequently

In the foregoing Remarks to some Apothecaries; we do not consider ourselves

evade swallowing the medicine ; but afterwards suspect their food, and refuse that also, until their appetite is gone by ; and sometimes irrecoverably lost. The health of young children is damaged in this way more than the public is aware of. Who does not recollect ? that the days of their childhood were much clouded in this manner : it is not easy to forget how often our “ *noses have been pinched*” while some diabolical mixture has been thrust down our throats, under pretence of worms, and other absurd reasoning. The vermifuge powder (*pulvis vermifugus*) composed of Scammony, Calomel, and Resin of Jalap : so much given to children, would, to use a homely phrase, make “ *any horse sick* ;” yet, it is daily put into the tender stomach of infants : it is here particularly desireable that the prescriber of such a medicine should swallow his own composition. The sending down such violent and poisonous messengers into the

as addressing so much the general practitioner, or what has of late been termed

stomachs of children to destroy worms, is like the fable of the *Gnat* and the *Bear*, who when he saw that the Gardener was annoyed in his sleep by the stinging of the Gnat on his forehead, he (the bear) with one and the same blow of his paw killed the Gnat and his best friend the Gardener into the bargain. Worms in the stomach and intestines of children are the result of insufficient and improper food occasioning the loss of the powers of digestion ; and the way to cure worms, therefore, is to employ a generous and stomachic diet, and thus to restore the digestive powers ; for where there is a good digestion, there can be no worms ! Parents should look well to these affairs in the numerous preparatory schools, where the food in some,—I had almost said many, is very scanty, and ill adapted ; (not sufficiently animal) and where that unfeeling system is practised of punishing children, for faults, *with the loss of their dinner*, the

the surgeon-apothecary; or medical-surgeon; for it is the latter professional

next meal is of no use to the child ; his appetite being gone, he then soon becomes indisposed, and the next day the apothecary probably will be called in. Who does not, therefore, see the glaring impropriety of this mode of punishment? and here we take the liberty to hint, that parents should stipulate that governesses of schools should not be allowed, on any occasion, to send for medical advice, without instantly communicating the necessity of it, to the parent. Prescribing for children is dealing in the dark ; for they cannot properly describe their feelings ; and the advice of Dr. Gregory in page 10 is more particularly to be here enforced. Blistering, Bleeding, Emetics, and all other violent means, used with children, are extremely doubtful, and suspicious of being useful, under any circumstances ; but generally quite the contrary ; the anxiety of the parents when a child is ill, makes them expect that the medi-

persons, if properly grounded and educated, that we consider most competent

cal attendant should employ every possible means, that can be devised ; and this leads to doing too much : in cases therefore of great distress, pain, irritation, or fever, in children ; a plentiful dilution is of the utmost importance ; such as a weak baum tea, sweetened and made with a single leaf to a pint ; weak lemonade ; common tea ; orange juice and water ; nonpareil infusion ; and giving a sixth or a fourth of a grain of James's powder every three or four hours ; and occasionally if still in great pain and distress, the tenth or twentieth of a grain of strained opium may be given in the form of a pill of the size of the smallest pin's head : either of these will be readily swallowed when concealed in a little bruised sugar, and shaken into the mouth, out of a slip of paper ; and immediately drank upon. The use of emollient *lavements* must not be forgotten ; and, as we compare pain, irritation, and fever, to the element " fire" quenchable only by " water"

to benefit the sick ; and those physicians whose diplomas have been obtained after a general practice, in every branch of the profession ; we humbly apprehend are, generally speaking, best able to cure diseases. The Classing of Practitioners, or the division of medical labour, that has long prevailed, is, we think, a subject to be lamented, as against the interest of the patient, and that of the public (15). One person practises as a

so our sheet-anchor therefore consists in that counter element, “ *water* ;” not only industriously used internally, but also externally, viz, the warm bath of 94 or 95 degrees ; the foot bath, of the same temperature ; the stomach also, and other parts being occasionally fomented. These we consider the best, certainly the safest companions and resources of the Sick Nursery.

(15) And very derogatory from the respectability of the Apothecaries; the greater part of

Physician; another as a Surgeon; a third as an Apothecary ; a fourth as an Accou-

which body are not inferior to any of the other branches of the profession ; a class of men; many of whom of the highest attainments and most honourable sentiments ; and whose Receipts as they are now derived, are very often quite inadequate to their expensive education and situation in life ; in comparison with solicitors and attorneys, the apothecaries are rewarded about one third or one fourth of the amount to which the former are customarily paid : and there appears no sufficient reason why their remuneration should not be put on a better footing than it is ; at any rate, on an equal ratio of three and fourpence ; six and eightpence ; or thirteen and fourpence ; for their daily occupation of time and visiting ; and let the medicine be either gratuitously provided ; or at cost-price, which cost price to be liable to taxation, if necessary ; on reference to the materials of the draught or mix-

cheur; whereas the student for a diploma in medicine, ought in his lectures

ture, as registered, of course, on the day supplied.

This or some other mode has long been a *desideratum*, both to the public and the practitioner; for, as this branch is at present and has been time out of mind conducted, who does not perceive the glaring incongruity and inconsistency of interests between the patient and his doctors; and, if further arguments were necessary, we might refer to an account of a country apothecary's bill recited a short time ago, by an ingenious Counsel in the court of Chancery; or to the still more recent wit of another Counsel in the court of Common Pleas, who to shew that his client was charged for what was thought a very large quantity of medicine, and which he never had occasion for: "Why my Lord," said the counsel, "the patient could never have taken all these drugs, and to prove it to your Lordship, it is only necessary to say, that "*he is still alive*"!!! Is

and studies to be necessarily taught every one of these branches of the healing art.

it fit that the members of an honorable profession (so expensive to acquire the knowledge of) should be liable and be made the butt of retorts like these ? that learned counsel might, however, have been told in answer ; that the *stile* of charges of many in the humble walks in his own profession, is often much worse, and has not been so easily, as in that instance, *got over* :—And the Leicestershire apothecary, (the subject of the former counsel's well known point and eloquence,) when he comes to look at his solicitors bill of costs in that cause, may possibly find a complete counterpoise to his own ; and an equal ingenuity and number of Items as in *his* own bill of *five thousand Draughts and ten thousand Pills.*" The propriety therefore of an alteration in this branch of the profession, we contend, is quite clear and undeniable, and in these pages we have endeavoured both by ridicule and other-

Can a physician practise with success, who knows little, or nothing, of anatomy, physiology, and surgery? (we do not include the operative part.) In fact, he ought to be as completely versed in those elements, as the surgeon : and in the study of the medical science, will he stop short, separate, and leave solely to the surgeon and the oculist, the study of the eye ? and to the aurist that of the ear ? as well might the operative dentist, aurist, or oculist, be taught the circulation of the blood in the eye, ear,

wise to inculcate its necessity. A consideration of the unpleasantness of the present system was in fact the reason of the writer's early retirement from the practice of the medical profession ; and it is principally in the hope of stimulating some able person to take up this subject of reformation that these pages have found their way to the eye of the public.

or in the tooth ; without adverting to the centre of circulation.

We are, therefore, advocates for a more general and combined practice of physic, and surgery ; and are of opinion that the judicious general practitioner is probably, generally speaking, better qualified for the successful treatment of all diseases than the physician only ; and that it is not beneficial to the patient that these distinctions should be rigidly adhered to. Medicine and Surgery being inseparable, as well as the practice of physic, and pharmacy ; that prescription is in the most proper hands when prepared under the immediate observation of the prescriber ; the merit and utility of the prescriptions being often marred in the making. From a want of this, blame may consequently have attached where praise, might have been due to the prescriber ; and we are also inclined to condemn that Physician,

who would not carry a lancet in his pocket, lest it should be thought *derogatory to his dignity*, and who would not in the absence of the surgeon, condescend to open a vein upon an emergency, and save the time, perhaps the life, of his patient.

The Writer, in conclusion, here takes leave of the reader, and he feels the gratifying confidence, that he has proceeded upon right and justifiable principles, in submitting these observations to the public inspection, and he has chosen the negative, or ironical mode of arguing, as the most striking, and perhaps most diffusively useful in his endeavour to correct some of the medical errors of the injudicious and unskilful practitioner. He wishes his motive for publishing not to be misunderstood; and he is anxious to guard against unmerited censure, which may arise from misapprehension. This work might be impu-

ted to disappointment in his profession ; such is by no means the case ; as he has long ceased to practice, except as an amateur among his friends, who have a strong predilection for his simplified mode of prescribing, and treatment; and at that period of his life, when he was entirely occupied as a medical man, he met with great encouragement, indeed his success was equal to his wishes, and beyond all expectation of his friends.

This work might be attributed to asperity or a wish to degrade those who stand highly distinguished in their profession, so far from being thus disposed, no one can be more willing than himself to give the tribute of commendation to all who deserve it, and who are acquiring fortunes, by the exercise of real abilities, and by a beneficial and disinterested practice. Neither, is he influenced by the ambition of being known as an author, for he is sensible of the

weakness of his pretensions to literary fame. All he aims at, is, to make his practical remarks, plain and intelligible; and thus, he hopes, in some degree, useful. His motive, in short, is not to endeavour to depretiate the meritorious, but to censure the practice of those who impose upon the public credulity; and who may be in the habit of deciding with precipitation, where the utmost caution is necessary. He cannot stand an idle spectator or withhold his public protest where any such persons tamper, for the sake of gain, with the constitutions of their patients; and do not duly consider their health, as the most invaluable blessing that Providence has bestowed upon Mankind.

FINIS.

